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at least it will afford but small consolation to the wife and family of its victim (should he have left either behind) when they are made acquainted with the fatal consequences produced by it; deprived of the counsel and support of him, whom on all occasions they were used to look up to as their protector and friend. Left alone in the world! doomed, perhaps, to struggle with adversity, "to bear the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune," without that well known voice, which could even rob misfortune of half its sting, to cheer and comfort them! If the evil could be confined to that class of society who profess to be the leaders of fashion, and who, troubling themselves but little about the happiness or misery of their fellow creatures, are content to "fret their hour upon the stage," and then pass off to make way for others equally worthy, the mischief would not be so great, but unfortunately this is not the case; the force of example has such a powerful influence, that many whose education, would, perhaps, have led them to act very differently, seized with this mania, are hurried headlong to an untimely grave! Such are the dismal effects too often produced by this savage custom! Pause, therefore, ye votaries of fashion, behold the baneful influence of your example! Reflect upon the consequences, ye who in your intercourse with society, scorn

to do a mean or unworthy action, yet are rashly impelled by a false idea of honour, to act contrary to the suggestions of reason and of virtue, before you risk precipitating yourselves and others into this gulph of misery! Behold the agony and grief of your wives and children; consider the calamities which your blind imprudence is likely to entail upon them; suffer the benign influence of humanity to take possession of your minds, and if the heart be not lost to every finer feeling, when these considerations are suffered to have due weight, weak, indeed, will appear all the flimsy pretensions of honour. Should you think these remarks worthy a place in your Magazine, they are at your service.

A FRIEND.

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*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,

YOUR intelligent correspondent, A. Z. gives an excellent method of saving Bees; yet he omits a very important part, that of feeding them when they have not a sufficiency of honey. Permit me, through the medium of your useful work, to request A. Z. or any other of your readers who may be sufficiently informed on the subject, to communicate his opinion to the public.

Bangor.

A FARMER.

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## USEFUL INVENTIONS.

*Communications on Potatoes, by Dr. Wright of Edinburgh. (Extracted from the Report of the Board of Agriculture, in England.)*

### POTATOE FLOUR.

IN the simple analysis of the potatoe, we find it is composed of three distinct and essential principles. First, a mucilaginous juice, which has no peculiar properties. Secondly, a fibrous, light and gray-coloured matter, like that contained in the roots of many pot-herbs. Thirdly, a dry powder resembling starch from grain. To obtain this powder, the process is easy: the fresh potatoes must be washed

clean, and grated into a clean vessel; this pulp is next put into a hair-sieve, and mixed with cold water; when by repeated effusions of water, the strainings are no longer white or milky, what remains in the search may be put to one side; the strained liquor is suffered to settle, and the brown coloured water, drained off and thrown away. Repeated quantities of cold water are then poured on the white hard mass, well stirred up each time; and when settled, and the water poured off till the sediment is perfectly white, this matter is then taken out, and the lumps broken down, and put